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LARSON NEWMAN

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,823	11/14/2001	Daniel W. Wong	1376-0100520	5879
34456 7590 07/28/2008 LARSON NEWMAN ABEL POLANSKY & WHITE, LLP 5914 WEST COURTYARD DRIVE SUITE 200 AUSTIN, TX 78730				
			EXAMINER CHAI, LONGBIT	
			ART UNIT 2131	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/28/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

7/31/08 Called
USPTO - pm -
8/4/08 Called
Eq. Left message
8/5/08 Examiner
said to send
this back to
the PTO.
etc

7/31/08 This cover sheet
doesn't belong
with the rest of
the papers.
I checked this &
couldn't get into
it so presume
it isn't our
case (Signed)



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EXAMINER

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2131

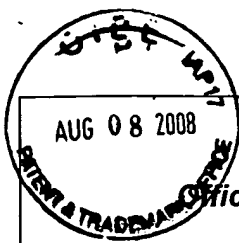
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/28/2008

PAPER

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The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



IFW

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/636,959	Applicant(s) KOERBER ET AL.	
	Examiner Thuy Dao	Art Unit 2192	

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on April 28, 2008.
2. Claims 1-30 have been examined.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered. However, they are not persuasive.

Claim 1 is the representative claim (Remarks, page 15).

i) First, Almond does not disclose "a project management module" (Remarks, pp. 9-12):

The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants' assertions.

The plain language of claim 1 merely recites:

"... artifacts in a project management module..." (line 3)

"... the project management module being used to manage a project involving a plurality of project members" (lines 5-6, emphasis added).

That is to say, "a project" is merely defined as "...involving a plurality of project members", which does not exclude a software development project involving a plurality of developers, administrators, and project users as disclosed/taught by Almond (e.g., col.1: 21-42, col.2: 39-67, col.5: 47-64, col.11: 9-19, col.39: 38 – col.40: 31).

Almond also explicitly teaches "a project management module", wherein "the project management module being used to manage a project" (i.e., the software development project set forth above is managed by "check in", "check out", and "versioning" (e.g., FIG. 1B, an Integrated Development Tool Front-end 170, and Object Cycle Versioning System 175, col.5: 8-21; FIG. 2, Object Cycle versioning system 200, Object Cycle Versioning Server 211, col.5: 22-64, emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicants' assertions are not persuasive.

ii) Second, Almond does not disclose "a traceability link" (Remarks, pp. 12-14):

The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants' assertions.

In the specification, Applicants clearly defined, "During the course of a project development, many artifacts are produced. These artifacts include design documents, source files, checklists, etc." (page 3, [005], lines 1-2, emphasis added).

The plain language of the claims merely calls for:

"the traceability link providing a connection between the first and second objects of the artifacts" (e.g., claim 1, lines 3-4, emphasis added); and

"creating the traceability link having the traceability information including at least an object identifier for each of the first and second objects" (e.g., claim 2, lines 2-3, emphasis added).

That is to say, said claimed limitations do not exclude:

artifacts (source code files, header files);

the first and second objects of the artifacts (first and second versions of source code files, header files);

first version identifier and second version identifier (first and second version identifiers/version numbers); and

a traceability link providing a connection between a first version identifier and a second version identifier (i.e., a link providing connection between said version identifiers/version numbers).

In light of the specification and the claim language above, Almond explicitly teaches:

first and second objects having an association (e.g., col.3: 36-54; col.7: 6-24; col.10: 52-63)

*the first and second objects representing artifacts in a project management module (e.g., FIG. 10A, col.10: 34-51; col.3: 35-53; col.6: 22-40),
creating a traceability link between first and second objects (e.g., FIG. 10, col.10: 34 – col.12: 5),
the traceability link providing a connection between the first and second objects of the artifacts (e.g., FIG. 9, table Version 940, table Links 990, col.9: 53 – col.10: 33).*

Accordingly, Applicants' assertions are not persuasive.

iii) Third. Almond does not disclose "the first and second objects representing artifacts in a project management module" (Remarks, page 15, first paragraph):

The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants' assertions.

In the specification, Applicants clearly defined, "During the course of a project development, many artifacts are produced. These artifacts include design documents, source files, checklists, etc." (page 3, [005], lines 1-2, emphasis added).

As acknowledged by the Applicants, "...Almond merely discloses relationship between source files and header files in a program (Almond, col.7: lines 9-11) ..." (Remarks, page 15, lines 1-2, emphasis added).

That is to say, Almond fully teaches "artifacts in a project" (i.e., source files and header files) as acknowledged above by the Applicants. Almond further teaches said artifacts (i.e., said source files and header files) under "check in", "check out", and "versioning" in a project management module (e.g., FIG. 1B, an Integrated Development Tool Front-end 170, and Object Cycle Versioning System 175, col.5: 8-21; FIG. 2, Object Cycle versioning system 200, Object Cycle Versioning Server 211, col.5: 22-64).

Accordingly, Applicants' assertions are not persuasive.

iv) Fourth, Almond does not disclose “adding a tag to characterize the traceability link” (Remarks, page 15, second paragraph):

The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants’ assertions.

The whole limitations would be “adding a tag to characterize the traceability link, the tag having a tag value used to organize the traceability information” (claim 1, lines 7-8, emphasis added).

That is to say, “the tag having a tag value” does not exclude OrgVerID, dstEntityID, ..., LinkType with values “0 = labels”, “1 = branchLabels”, “2 = groups”, which are “used to organize the traceability information as claimed” (emphasis added).

Per the plain language of the claims, Almond explicitly teaches:

adding a tag to characterize the traceability link (e.g., FIG. 9, table Links 990, tags as OrgVerID, dstEntityID, ..., LinkType, col.9: 53 – col.10: 33),

the tag having a tag value used to organize the traceability information (e.g., tag LinkType has tag values “0 = labels”, “1 = branchLabels”, “2 = groups”..., col.9: 53 – col.10: 33).

Accordingly, Applicants’ assertions are not persuasive.

v) Fifth, Almond does not disclose “storing the traceability information in a repository of the project management module” (Remarks, page 15, third paragraph):

The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicants’ assertions.

The Applicants merely define “traceability information” as:

“creating the traceability link having the traceability information including at least an object identifier for each of the first and second objects” (e.g., claim 2, lines 2-3, emphasis added).

Art Unit: 2192

That is to say, said traceability information may include at least a first version identifier and a second version identifier (i.e., object identifiers "for each of the first and second objects") of source code files (i.e., artifacts).

In light of the claim language above, Almond explicitly teaches:

creating the traceability link having the traceability information including at least an object identifier for each of the first and second objects (e.g., FIG. 9, table Links 990, OrgVerID, dstVerID, col.10: 56-63).the traceability link providing a connection between the first and second objects of the artifacts (e.g., FIG. 9, table Version 940, table Links 990, col.9: 53 – col.10: 33); and

storing the trace information (e.g., FIG. 9, table Entities 930, table Version 940, table Actions 950, table Links 990, col.9: 53 – col.10: 33)

in a repository of the project management module (e.g., FIG. 1A, main memory 102; FIG. 2, relational database tables 220 such as Sybase, Oracle, Informix RDBMS, col.5: 24-47).

Accordingly, Applicants' assertions are not persuasive.

In conclusion, the examiner respectfully maintains the 35 USC §102(b) rejection over claims 1-30.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Almond (art of record, US Patent No. 6,112,024).

Art Unit: 2192

Claim 1:

Almond discloses an article of manufacture, a system, and a *method comprising:*

first and second objects having an association (e.g., col.3: 36-54; col.7: 6-24; col.10: 52-63)

creating a traceability link between first and second objects having an association (e.g., FIG. 10, col.10: 34 – col.12: 5; col.3: 36-54; col.7: 6-24; col.10: 52-63),

the first and second objects representing artifacts in a project management module (e.g., FIG. 10A, col.10: 34-51; col.3: 35-53; col.6: 22-40),

the traceability link providing a connection between the first and second objects of the artifacts (e.g., FIG. 9, table Version 940, table Links 990, col.9: 53 – col.10: 33)

having traceability information (e.g., FIG. 10A, col.10: 34-51);

the project management module (e.g., FIG. 1B, an Integrated Development Tool Front-end 170, and Object Cycle Versioning System 175, col.5: 8-21; FIG. 2, Object Cycle versioning system 200, Object Cycle Versioning Server 211, col.5: 22-64)

being used to manage a project (e.g., col.3: 11-35; col.4: 36-46;)

involving a plurality of project members (e.g., col.1: 21-42; col.2: 39-67; col.5: 47-64; col.11: 9-19; col.39: 38 – col.40: 31).

adding a tag to characterize the traceability link (e.g., FIG. 10B, col.10: 52-63, tags as labels, branch labels, and groups)

the tag having a tag value used to organize the traceability information (e.g., tag LinkType has tag values "0 = labels", "1 = branchLabels", "2 = groups"..., col.9: 53 – col.10: 33); and

storing the trace information (e.g., FIG. 9, table Entities 930, table Version 940, table Actions 950, table Links 990, col.9: 53 – col.10: 33)

in a repository of the project management module (e.g., FIG. 1A, main memory 102; FIG. 2, relational database tables 220 (Sybase, Oracle, Informix RDBMS, col.5: 24-47).

Claim 2:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *creating the traceability link having the traceability information including at least an object identifier for each of the first and second objects (e.g., FIG. 9, table Links 990, OrgVerID, dstVerID, col.10: 56-63).*

Claim 3:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *editing the traceability link (e.g., FIG. 9, table Actions 950, col.10: 64 – col.11: 19).*

Claim 4:

The rejection of claim 3 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *deleting the traceability link (e.g., col.10: 64 – col.11: 19).*

Claim 5:

The rejection of claim 3 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *retrieving the traceability information (e.g., col.26: 18-38).*

Claim 6:

The rejection of claim 3 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *adding the traceability link (e.g., col.12: 7-21).*

Claim 7:

Art Unit: 2192

The rejection of claim 4 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *selecting the first and second objects; and removing the traceability link* (e.g., col.10: 64 – col.11: 19).

Claim 8:

The rejection of claim 5 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *selecting a starting object; specifying a depth of the chain of objects; and obtaining the traceability information of the traceability link while progressing through the chain of objects from the starting object according to the depth* (e.g., FIG. 10A, col.10: 34-44).

Claim 9:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *storing the traceability information automatically or manually* (e.g., FIG. 1B, col.5: 1-21).

Claim 10:

The rejection of claim 9 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *storing the traceability information automatically when there is an occurrence of at least one of a publication of a document, an object creation during project instantiation, a requirement creation, and an information capture during integration* (e.g., col.6: 52 – col.7: 24).

Claims 11 and 13-20:

Claims 11 and 13-20 recite the same limitations as those of claims 1 and 3-10, wherein all claimed limitations have been addressed and/or set forth above. Therefore, as the reference teaches all of the limitations of the above claims, it also teaches all of the limitations of claims 11 and 13-20.

Claim 12:

The rejection of claim 11 is incorporated. Almond also discloses *creating the traceability link having the traceability information including at least an object identifier and an object attribute, the object attribute including at least the object identifier and the type* (e.g., FIG. 9, block 990, col.10: 56-63).

Claims 21-30:

Claims 21-30 recite the same limitations as those of claims 11-20, wherein all claimed limitations have been addressed and/or set forth above. Therefore, as the reference teaches all of the limitations of the above claims, it also teaches all of the limitations of claims 21-30.

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Thuy Dao (Twee), whose telephone/fax numbers are (571) 272 8570 and (571) 273 8570, respectively. The examiner can normally be reached on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam, can be reached at (571) 272 3695.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272 2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Thuy Dao/
Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192